

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A power status notification device (PSND) for reporting the status of power supplied through an electric outlet, the device comprising:

 a power status component capable of detecting a change in the status of the power supplied through an electric outlet;

 a power supply component that receives power from the electric outlet and also from a telephone line;

 a power supply monitor component for detecting a change in the amount of power in the power status notification device power supply;

 a memory component for storing programmable and reprogrammable information;

 a signal transmission component for transmitting a signal to an integrated voice response system (IVR); and

 a signal receiving component for receiving a signal from an IVR.

Claim 2. (original) The PSND of claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller.

Claim 3. (original) The PSND of claim 2, wherein the microcontroller comprises a microprocessor.

Claim 4. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the power supply component comprises a capacitor.

Claim 5. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the power supply monitor component comprises a reset chip.

Claim 6. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component comprises an electronic erasable programmable read only memory chip (EEPROM).

Claim 7. (original) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component stores programmable information comprising a response time T.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component stores programmable information comprising ~~comprises~~ identification (ID) data.

Claim 9. (original) The PSND of claim 8, wherein the ID data comprises an identification number unique to the power status notification device.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component stores programmable information comprising ~~comprises~~ a phone number associated with the IVR.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component stores programmable information comprising ~~comprises~~ a call attempt limit.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component stores programmable information comprising ~~comprises~~ location information relating to the whereabouts of the power status notification device.

Claim 13. (original) The PSND of claim 12, wherein location information comprises the address of the premises where the power status notification device is installed.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the memory component stores programmable information comprising ~~comprises~~ a heartbeat time.

Claims 15 – 27 (Cancelled).

Claim 28. (original) A power status notification device (PSND) for reporting the status of power supplied through an electric outlet, the device comprising:

- a power status component, wherein the power status component detects a change in the status of the power supplied through an electric outlet;

- a capacitor, wherein the capacitor receives power from the electric outlet and also from a telephone line;

- a reset chip, wherein the reset chip detects a change in the amount of power in the power status notification device power supply;

- a DTMF Out component, wherein the DTMF Out component transmits DTMF tones;

- a DTMF In component, wherein the DTMF In component receives DTMF tones;
- and

- an electronic erasable programmable memory component (EEPROM), wherein the EEPROM stores programmable information comprising:

- a customer ID number,

- a response time T,

- a phone number associated with an IVR, and

- a call attempt limit, wherein the programmable information may be entered into the EEPROM using a remote terminal.

Claim 29 – 91 (cancelled).

Claim 92. (new) The PSND of claim 9, wherein the identification number unique to the power status notification device comprises customer ID data.

Claim 93. (new) The PSND of claim 92, wherein the customer ID data is selected by the customer.

Claim 94. (new) The PSND of claim 92, wherein the customer ID data is selected by a power company.

Claim 95. (new) The PSND of claim 7, wherein the response time T comprises about ten seconds.

Claim 96. (new) The PSND of claim 7, wherein the response time T comprises 10 seconds.

Claim 97. (new) The PSND of claim 7, wherein the response time T comprises about four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 98. (new) The PSND of claim 7, wherein the response time T comprises four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 99. (new) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the information stored in the memory component is programmed into the memory by a remote terminal.

Claim 100. (new) The PSND of claim 99, wherein the remote terminal comprises a computer.

Claim 101. (new) The PSND of claim 99, wherein the remote terminal comprises a handheld computing device.

Claim 102. (new) The PSND of claim 4, wherein the capacitor is capable of storing the power status notification device power supply.

Claim 103. (new) The PSND of claim 1, further comprising:

- a DTMF Out component, wherein the DTMF Out component transmits DTMF tones;

- a DTMF In component, wherein the DTMF In component receives DTMF tones.

Claim 104. (new) The PSND of claim 1, wherein the PSND is operative to perform a power status notification function comprising:

detecting the change in the status of the power supplied through the electric outlet;

placing a call to the IVR using a telecommunications network; and

transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.

Claim 105. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein transmitting the power status notification information comprises:

transmitting an identifying signal to the IVR, wherein the identifying signal is recognizable as being transmitted by a power status notification device; and

in response to a receipt of an acknowledgement signal, transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.

Claim 106. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the change in the status of the power supplied through the electric outlet comprises an electric power outage.

Claim 107. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the change in the status of the power supplied through the electric outlet comprises an electric power restoration.

Claim 108. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the telecommunications network comprises a telephone network.

Claim 109. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the power status notification information comprises identification (ID) data.

Claim 110. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the ID data comprises an identification number unique to the power status notification device.

Claim 111. (new) The PSND of claim 110, wherein the identification number unique to the power status notification device comprises customer ID data.

Claim 112. (new) The PSND of claim 111, wherein the customer ID data is selected by the customer.

Claim 113. (new) The PSND of claim 111, wherein the customer ID data is selected by a power company.

Claim 114. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the power status notification information comprises a power status indicator.

Claim 115. (new) The PSND of claim 114, wherein the power status indicator comprises a 0 tone.

Claim 116. (new) The PSND of claim 114, wherein the power status indicator comprises a 1 tone.

Claim 117. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the power status notification information comprises location information relating to the whereabouts of the power status notification device.

Claim 118. (new) The PSND of claim 117, wherein location information comprises the address of the premises where the power status notification device is installed.

Claim 119. (new) The PSND of claim 105, wherein the identifying signal comprises a DTMF tone.

Claim 120. (new) The PSND of claim 119, wherein the DTMF tone comprises a sinc pulse.

Claim 121. (new) The PSND of claim 120, wherein the sinc pulse comprises an A tone.

Claim 122. (new) The PSND of claim 105, wherein the acknowledgement signal comprises a DTMF tone.

Claim 123. (new) The PSND of claim 122, wherein the DTMF tone comprises a # tone.

Claim 124. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the power status notification information transmitted is used to generate a report containing the power status notification information.

Claim 125. (new) The PSND of claim 124, wherein the report is generated by a reporting device.

Claim 126. (new) The PSND of claim 125, wherein the reporting device comprises a telecommunications device.

Claim 127. (new) The PSND of claim 126, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a pager and the report comprises a page.

Claim 128. (new) The PSND of claim 126, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a cellular phone and the report comprises a voice message.

Claim 129. (new) The PSND of claim 126, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a voice mail system and the report comprises a voice mail message.

Claim 130. (new) The PSND of claim 126, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a fax machine and the report comprises a fax.

Claim 131. (new) The PSND of claim 125, wherein the reporting device comprises a printer and the report comprises a print-out.

Claim 132. (new) The PSND of claim 125, wherein the reporting device comprises a monitor, and wherein a user interface on the screen of the monitor displays the power status notification information.

Claim 133. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the IVR is at a location remote from the electric utility, and wherein a user interface displays the power status notification information.

Claim 134. (new) The PSND of claim 133, wherein the user interface comprises a World Wide Web browser.

Claim 135. (new) The PSND of claim 104, wherein the power status notification function further comprises waiting a response time T prior to placing a call to the integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telecommunications network,

Claim 136. (new) The PSND of claim 135, wherein the response time T is programmable and reprogrammable.

Claim 137. (new) The PSND of claim 135, wherein the response time T comprises a time in a range from about ten (10) seconds to about four minutes forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 138. (new) The PSND of claim 135, wherein the response time T comprises about ten seconds.

Claim 139. (new) The PSND of claim 135, wherein the response time T comprises 10 seconds.

Claim 140. (new) The PSND of claim 135, wherein the response time T comprises about four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 141. (new) The PSND of claim 135, wherein the response time T comprises four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 142. (new) The PSND of claim 1, wherein:

the PSND is coupled with the electric power outlet capable of supplying power;

the PSND is coupled to the telephone line of a telephone network; and

the PSND maintains power in the device by:

in response to power being received through the electric outlet, deriving power from the electric outlet to maintain power in the power supply component of the PSND; and

in response to an interruption of power supplied through the electric outlet, periodically deriving power from the telephone line of the telephone network in order to maintain the power supply of the power supply component of the PSND at an operational level.

Claim 143. (new) The PSND of claim 142, wherein periodically deriving power from the telephone line comprises:

in response to an interruption of power supplied through the electric outlet, and in response to a determination that a response time T is greater than a pre-determined time:

seizing the telephone line of the telephone network, and

deriving power from the telephone line for an amount of time necessary to maintain the power supply of the power supply component of the PSND at an operational level.

Claim 144. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the response time T is programmable and reprogrammable.

Claim 145. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the response time T comprises a time in a range from about ten (10) seconds to about four minutes forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 146. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the response time T comprises about ten seconds.

Claim 147. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the response time T comprises 10 seconds.

Claim 148. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the response time T comprises about four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 149. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the response time T comprises four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 150. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the pre-determined time comprises about 30 seconds.

Claim 151. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the pre-determined time comprises 30 seconds.

Claim 152. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the amount of time necessary comprises about 5 seconds.

Claim 153. (new) The PSND of claim 143, wherein the amount of time necessary comprises 5 seconds.

Claim 154. (new) The PSND of claim 28, further comprising a microcontroller.

Claim 155. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the microcontroller comprises a microprocessor.

Claim 156. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the capacitor is capable of storing the power status notification device power supply.

Claim 157. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the customer ID number comprises identification data unique to the power status notification device.

Claim 158. (new) The PSND of claim 157, wherein the customer ID number is selected by the customer.

Claim 159. (new) The PSND of claim 157, wherein the customer ID number is selected by a power company.

Claim 160. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the EEPROM stores programmable information comprising location information relating to the whereabouts of the power status notification device.

Claim 161. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein location information comprises the address of the premises where the power status notification device is installed.

Claim 162. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the EEPROM stores programmable information comprising a heartbeat time.

Claim 163. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the response time T comprises about ten seconds.

Claim 164. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the response time T comprises 10 seconds.

Claim 165. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the response time T comprises about four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 166. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the response time T comprises four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 167. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the remote terminal comprises a computer.

Claim 168. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the remote terminal comprises a handheld computing device.

Claim 169. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the remote terminal comprises a desktop computer.

Claim 170. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the remote terminal comprises a laptop computer.

Claim 171. (new) The PSND of claim 154, wherein the PSND is operative to perform a power status notification function comprising:

detecting the change in the status of the power supplied through the electric outlet;

placing a call to the integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telecommunications network; and

transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.

Claim 172. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein transmitting the power status notification information comprises:

transmitting an identifying signal to the IVR, wherein the identifying signal is recognizable as being transmitted by a power status notification device; and

in response to a receipt of an acknowledgement signal, transmitting power status notification information to the IVR.

Claim 173. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the change in the status of the power supplied through the electric outlet comprises an electric power outage.

Claim 174. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the change in the status of the power supplied through the electric outlet comprises an electric power restoration.

Claim 175. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the telecommunications network comprises a telephone network.

Claim 176. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the customer ID number comprises identification data unique to the power status notification device.

Claim 177. (new) The PSND of claim 176, wherein the customer ID number is selected by the customer.

Claim 178. (new) The PSND of claim 176, wherein the customer ID number is selected by a power company.

Claim 179. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the power status notification information comprises a power status indicator.

Claim 180. (new) The PSND of claim 179, wherein the power status indicator comprises a 0 tone.

Claim 181. (new) The PSND of claim 179, wherein the power status indicator comprises a 1 tone.

Claim 182. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the power status notification information comprises location information relating to the whereabouts of the power status notification device.

Claim 183. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein location information comprises the address of the premises where the power status notification device is installed.

Claim 184. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the power status notification information comprises the customer ID number.

Claim 185. (new) The PSND of claim 184, wherein the customer ID number is selected by the customer.

Claim 186. (new) The PSND of claim 184, wherein the customer ID number is selected by a power company.

Claim 187. (new) The PSND of claim 172, wherein the identifying signal comprises a DTMF tone.

Claim 188. (new) The PSND of claim 187, wherein the DTMF tone comprises a sinc pulse.

Claim 189. (new) The PSND of claim 188, wherein the sinc pulse comprises an A tone.

Claim 190. (new) The PSND of claim 172, wherein the acknowledgement signal comprises a DTMF tone.

Claim 191. (new) The PSND of claim 190, wherein the DTMF tone comprises a # tone.

Claim 192. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the power status notification information transmitted is used to generate a report containing the power status notification information.

Claim 193. (new) The PSND of claim 192, wherein the report is generated by a reporting device.

Claim 194. (new) The PSND of claim 193, wherein the reporting device comprises a telecommunications device.

Claim 195. (new) The PSND of claim 194, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a pager and the report comprises a page.

Claim 196. (new) The PSND of claim 194, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a cellular phone and the report comprises a voice message.

Claim 197. (new) The PSND of claim 194, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a voice mail system and the report comprises a voice mail message.

Claim 198. (new) The PSND of claim 194, wherein the telecommunications device comprises a fax machine and the report comprises a fax.

Claim 199. (new) The PSND of claim 193, wherein the reporting device comprises a printer and the report comprises a print-out.

Claim 200. (new) The PSND of claim 193, wherein the reporting device comprises a monitor, and wherein a user interface on the screen of the monitor displays the power status notification information.

Claim 201. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the IVR is at a location remote from the electric utility, and wherein a user interface displays the power status notification information.

Claim 202. (new) The PSND of claim 201, wherein the user interface comprises a World Wide Web browser.

Claim 203. (new) The PSND of claim 171, wherein the power status notification function further comprises waiting the response time T prior to placing a call to the integrated voice response system (IVR) using a telecommunications network,

Claim 204. (new) The PSND of claim 203, wherein the response time T is programmable and reprogrammable.

Claim 205. (new) The PSND of claim 203, wherein the response time T comprises a time in a range from about ten (10) seconds to about four minutes forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 206. (new) The PSND of claim 203, wherein the response time T comprises about ten seconds.

Claim 207. (new) The PSND of claim 203, wherein the response time T comprises 10 seconds.

Claim 208. (new) The PSND of claim 203, wherein the response time T comprises about four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 209. (new) The PSND of claim 203, wherein the response time T comprises four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 210. (new) The PSND of claim 28, wherein:

the PSND is coupled with the electric power outlet capable of supplying power;

the PSND is coupled to the telephone line of a telephone network; and

the PSND maintains power in the device by:

in response to power being received through the electric outlet, deriving power from the electric outlet to maintain power in capacitor of the PSND; and

in response to an interruption of power supplied through the electric outlet, periodically deriving power from the telephone line of the telephone network in order to maintain the power supply of the capacitor of the PSND at an operational level.

Claim 211. (new) The PSND of claim 210, wherein periodically deriving power from the telephone line comprises:

in response to an interruption of power supplied through the electric outlet, and in response to a determination that the response time T is greater than a pre-determined time:

seizing the telephone line of the telephone network, and

deriving power from the telephone line for an amount of time necessary to maintain the power supply of the capacitor of the PSND at an operational level.

Claim 212. (new) The PSND of claim 211, wherein the response time T is programmable and reprogrammable.

Claim 213. (new) The PSND of claim 211, wherein the response time T comprises a time in a range from about ten (10) seconds to about four minutes forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 214. (new) The PSND of claim 211, wherein the response time T comprises about ten seconds.

Claim 215. (new) The PSND of claim 211, wherein the response time T comprises 10 seconds.

Claim 216. (new) The PSND of claim 211, wherein the response time T comprises about four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 217. (new) The PSND of claim 211, wherein the response time T comprises four minutes and forty-five seconds (4:45).

Claim 218. (new) The method of claim 211, wherein the pre-determined time comprises about 30 seconds.

Claim 219. (new) The method of claim 211, wherein the pre-determined time comprises 30 seconds.

Claim 220. (new) The method of claim 211, wherein the amount of time necessary comprises about 5 seconds.

Claim 221. (new) The method of claim 211, wherein the amount of time necessary comprises 5 seconds.